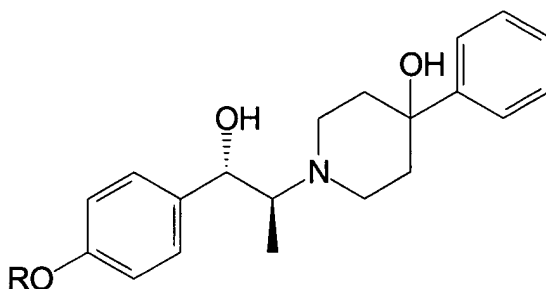


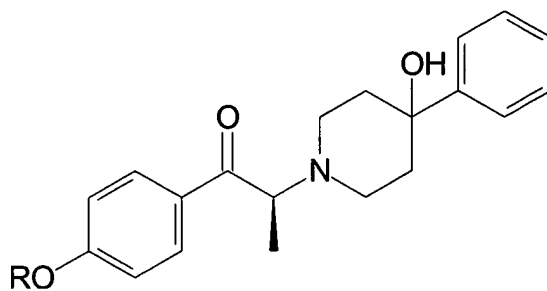
IN THE CLAIMS:

All claims pending, including those unchanged by the present amendment, are reproduced below for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Original) A process for the preparation of a nonracemic diastereomer selected from 1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanol compounds of the structural formula I and stereoisomers thereof,



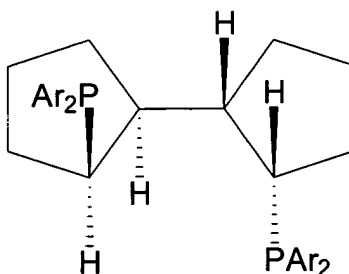
- wherein R is selected from hydrogen and hydroxyl protecting groups, comprising hydrogenating a corresponding nonracemic ketone selected from 1-(4-hydroxy-phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone compounds of the structural formula II and enantiomers thereof,



- in the presence of a catalyst system comprising ruthenium, a nonracemic diphosphine ligand, a bidentate amine ligand selected from amino-thioethers and achiral diamines, and a base.

2. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the nonracemic diphosphine ligand comprises a 2,2'-bis(diorganophosphino)-1,1'-bis(cyclic) structure.

3. (Original) The process of claim 2 wherein the nonracemic diphosphine ligand is selected from enantiomers of diphosphine ligands having the structural formula



wherein Ar is an aryl group.

4. (Original) The process of claim 3 wherein Ar is phenyl.

5. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the bidentate amine ligand is an amino-thioether.

6. (Original) The process of claim 5 wherein the amino-thioether is a 2-(alkylthio)aniline.

7. (Original) The process of claim 6 wherein the 2-(alkylthio)aniline is selected from 2-(methylthio)aniline and 2-(ethylthio)aniline.

8. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the bidentate amine ligand is an achiral diamine.

9. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein the achiral diamine comprises no chiral carbon centers.

10. (Original) The process of claim 8 wherein the achiral diamine is a 1,2-phenylene-diamine.

11. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the base is selected from basic inorganic and organic salts, alkylguanidines, aminophosphazenes, and proazaphosphatranes.

1 12. (Original) The process of claim 11 wherein the base is selected from
2 alkylguanidines, aminophosphazenes, and proazaphosphatranes.

1 13. (Original) The process of claim 12 wherein the base is an alkylguanidine.

1 14. (Original) The process of claim 13 wherein the base is a
2 pentaalkylguanidine.

1 15. (Original) The process of claim 1 wherein the hydroxyl protecting group
2 is benzyl.

1 16. (Original) The process of claim 15 wherein the diastereomer is a *syn*-
2 diastereomer.

1 17. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the *syn*-diastereomer is the
2 (1*S*,2*S*) diastereomer.

1 18. (Original) The process of claim 16 wherein the *syn*-diastereomer is
2 formed in at least about 90% diastereomeric excess.

1 19. (Original) A process for the preparation of (1*S*,2*S*)-1-(4-benzyloxy-phenyl)-
2 2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1- by catalytic hydrogenation of (2*S*)-1-(4-benzyl-
3 phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone using a catalyst system comprising
4 ruthenium, a (*S,S,S,S*)-2,2'-bis-(diarylphosphino)-1,1'-dicyclopentane ligand, a 1,2-phenylene
5 diamine ligand, and a base.

1 20. (Original) A process for the preparation of (1*S*,2*S*)-1-(4-benzyloxy-phenyl)-
2 2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1- by catalytic hydrogenation of (2*S*)-1-(4-benzyl-
3 phenyl)-2-(4-hydroxy-4-phenyl-piperidin-1-yl)-1-propanone using a catalyst system comprising
4 ruthenium, a (*S,S,S,S*)-2,2'-bis-(diarylphosphino)-1,1'-dicyclopentane ligand, a
5 2-(alkylthio)aniline ligand, and a base.